

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAHA 00351 140935Z

14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

----- 004880

R 140831Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1504

INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 2149

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USAGO MAKIMINATO

313TH AD/18TFW CC

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFB CAMP BUTLER

OAC CAMP BUTLER

FMFPAC CAMP SMITH

USARJ CAMP ZAMA

5TH AF YOKOTA

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKUSKA

CDR 3RD AIRDIV ANDERSON AFB GUAM

CINCSAC, OFFUTT AFB OMAHA, NEBRASKA

CDR, 376TH STRATWING KADENA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 351

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: B-52 WEATHER EVACUATION TO KADENA

REF: NAHA 261 (DTG 210815Z MAY 76)

1. SUMMARY: AS IN PAST, TYPHOON WEATHER EVACUATION FROM GUAM TO KADENA IMMEDIATELY SPARKED PROTESTS FROM PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR AND OTHERS WHO ASSERT OKINAWANS OPPOSE B-52 VISITS NO MATTER WHAT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAHA 00351 140935Z

THE REASON. END SUMMARY.

2. CG CALLED ON GOVERNOR TAIRA 0930 HOURS JULY 13 AND GAVE CUSTOM-ARY ADVANCE NOTIFICATION THAT 12 B-52'S AND 5 KC-135'S WERE BEING MOVED FROM ANDERSON AFB, GUAM, TO KADENA AFB ON OKINAWA IN COURSE OF MORNING BECAUSE OF THREAT TO GUAM FROM TYPHOON THERESE. CG TOLD GOVERNOR THAT WHILE USG FULLY AWARE OF OKINAWAN SENTIMENT OPPOSING B-52 VISITS, WEATHER EVACUATION TO KADENA WAS UNAVOIDABLE (YAMUOENAI) INASMUCH AS KADENA ONLY SUITABLE SAFE HAVEN FOR GUAM-BASED B-52'S AT PRESENT TIME, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT CON-SIDERATIONS. CG NOTED THAT POTENTIAL ADVERSE WEATHER THREAT TO GUAM WAS ONLY REASON AIRCRAFT BEING MOVED TO KADENA AND THAT AIR-

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3740 C O N F I D E N T I A L

CRAFT WOULD RETURN TO THEIR HOME BASE AS SOON AS TYPHOON THREAT TO GUAM HAD PASED.

3. THERE THEN ENSUED WHAT IS BEST DESCRIBED AS AS HOUR-LONG Q - A SESSION, VERGING ON A DEBATE, IN WHICH GOVERNOR EXPRESSED SAME FAMILIAR SENTIMENTS AS OTHER OKINAWANS WHO HAVE OPPOSED B-52 VISITS IN PAST. GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO COMPREHEND WHY B-52'S COULD NOT BE EVACUATED TO HAWAII OR OTHER LOCATIONS SUCH AS PHILIP-PINES OR TAIWAN. ASSERTING THAT JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD AD- VISED THAT 50 B-52'S WERE STATIONED ON GUAM AND NOTING THAT THIS EVACUATION INVOLVED ONLY 12 B-52'S IN CONTRAST TO 14 EVACUATED TO KADENA ON LAST OCCASION IN MAY, GOVERNOR WAS CONVINCED THAT VARI- OUS B-52'S ON GUAM WERE BEING EVACUATED TO OTHER LOCATIONS AND THAT WE COULD USE SUCH ALTERNATIVE SAFE HAVEN FOR ALL B-52'S IF ONLY WE WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF OKINAWAN STRONG FEELINGS IN MATTER. IN RES- PONDING, CG NOTED MUCH GREATER DISTANCE OF GUAM FROM HAWAII THAN ROM OKINAWA AND SAID FUNDAMENTAL OBSTACLE TO USE OF HAWAII AS SAGE HAVEN WAS REQUIREMENT UNDER EXISTING DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS THAT B-52'S REMAIN IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, THE FAR EAST. CG ALSO NOTED THAT KADENA IS USED FOR B-52 EATHER EVACUATION WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENT.

PAGE 4 RHAIBQA3 40 C O N F I D E N T I A L

4. AS DO ALL OKINAWANS WHO PROTEST B-52 VISITS, GOVERNOR DWELT ON WHAT HE TERMED WELL-DOCUMENTED DANGER OF B-52 ACCIDENT, VIVIDLY RE- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NAHA 00351 140935Z

CALLING KADENA B-52 ACCIDENT OF 1968. CG SAID USG WELL AWARE OF OKINAWAN FEELINGS IN THIS REGARD BUT COULD NOT AGREE THAT THERE WAS BASIS FOR SUCH CONCERN. CG POINTED OUT THAT B-52 PILOTS AND CREWS RECEIVED RIGOROUS TRAINING ON SAFETY MEASURES AS DO PILOTS AND CREWS OF ALL AIR FORCE PLANES.

5. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA PROMPTLY HEADLINED GOVERNOR'S STRONG PROTEST AGAINST THIS OR ANY FUTURE B-52 VISIT "IN DISREGARD OF OPPOSITION OF PREFECTURAL PEOPLE" AND HIS DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL. MEDIA

ALSO HIGHLIGHTED CG STATEMENTS THAT KADENA IS USED FOR WEATHER EVACUATION WITH UNDERSTANDING OF GOJ AND THAT B-52'S ARE NOT A DANGER TO OKINAWANS.

6. LATER IN DAY NHK QUERIED CONGEN RE SPECIFIC DOCUMENT IN WHICH GOJ AGREED TO B-52 VISITS TO KADENA, QUESTION WHICH CONGEN REPLIED SHOULD PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED TO JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

7. AS IN PAST, KADENA CITY MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY PROMPTLY ISSUED PROTEST STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION, WHICH THEY PRESENTED TO CG JULY

14. LDP MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ASSERTED B-52 VISITS ARE MAKING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO MAINTAIN WITH KADENA ELECTORATE

PAGE 5 RHAIBQA3740 C O N F I D E N T I A L

LDP POLICY OF ENDORSING SECURITY TREATY AND PRESENCE OF KADENA AB. IN RESPONSE, CG EMPHASIZED USG KNOWLEDGE OF KADENA SENTIMENTS, UN-AVOIDABILITY OF WEATHER EVAC USE OF KADENA AND ABSENCE OF DANGER TO LOCAL INHABITANTS.

8. CG NOTIFIED GOVERNOR MORNING JULY 14 THAT TYPHOON THERESE HAS PASSED BY GUAM AND THAT, BARRING UNEXPECTED CHANGE IN WEATHER SITUATION, B-52'S WILL RETURN TO GUAM SOMETIME JULY 15, OKINAWA TIME.

9. THUS FAR OKINAWAN MEDIA COVERAGE, WHILE HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE, HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT LESS EXTENSIVE AND EMOTIONAL THAN DURING LAST WEATHER EVAC IN MAY. THIS TIME, PERHAPS AS RESULT OF CG DISCUSSIONS WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS, PRESS HAS CARRIED REPORTS OF TYPHOON THERESE THREAT TO GUAM ALONGSIDE B-52 PROTEST STORIES. NONETHELESS, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT OKINAWAN EMOTIONS, IN PARTICULAR FEAR ROOTED IN MEMORIES OF 1968 ACCIDENT AT KADENA, ARE DEEP-ROOTED AND MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

10. COMMENT: THIS WAS MY FIRST DISCUSSION WITH GOVERNOR TAIRA ON MATTER OF SUBSTANCE. BASED ON THIS FIRST EXPERIENCE, I WOULD SAY THAT GOVERNOR TAIRA IS A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT PERSON THAT HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NAHA 00351 140935Z

PREDECESSOR GOVERNOR YARA AND THAT HE WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT

PAGE 6 RHAIBQA3740 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TO DEAL WITH. HIS DISCUSSION OF B-52 ISSUE WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM STATEMENT OF WELL-INFORMED OKINAWAN POLITICAL LEADER THAT WHILE TAIRA AND YARA SHARE BASIC REFORMIST OKINAWAN ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. BASES, GOJ, ETC., TAIRA HAS NARROW, STRICTLY OKINAWAN PERSPECTIVE AND LACKS YARA'S APPRECIATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF BROADER CONSIDERATIONS OUTSIDE PURVIEW OF PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR WHICH BEAR ON PROBLEMS INVOLVING U.S. BASES ON OKINAWA.

KNOWLES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NAHA00351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-1129
From: NAHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760759/aaaacaf1.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NAHA 261
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: B-52 WEATHER EVACUATION TO KADENA
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
To: RUEHKO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006